

NEWS RELEASE

North Texas
Municipal Water District

For Immediate Release
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Stage 1 of the NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan Goes Into Effect Today *Consumers are urged to reduce water consumption and repair water leaks*

(Wylie, Texas-April 19, 2011) Officials with the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) want to remind consumers that Stage 1 of the *NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan, March 2008, (Plan)* goes into effect today. The goal of Stage 1 of the *Plan* is a 2% reduction in water use and increased public awareness of water supply issues faced by NTMWD.

Stage 1 of the *Plan* is being implemented as a result of invasive zebra mussels being found in Lake Texoma and the temporary loss of the Lake Texoma raw water supply by NTMWD. Lake Texoma accounts for 22.5% of NTMWD's raw water supply. While not harmful to humans, zebra mussels can attach to water pipes and pumps, causing increased maintenance costs.

"We are working closely with state and federal officials in an attempt to resolve this complex environmental and conservation issue, but we need our consumers to help us by using less water, and to recognize the importance of conserving water during this time," said Jim Parks, executive director of NTMWD. "Although the recent storms that passed through North Texas did not have a major impact on our reservoir levels, they did provide temporary relief by reducing the need to use outdoor sprinkler systems," Parks added.

In August 2009, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department discovered zebra mussels in Sister Grove Creek, a tributary of the East Fork of the Trinity River and used by the NTMWD to transfer water from Lake Texoma. As a result, NTMWD voluntarily ceased pumping raw water supplies from Lake Texoma and has not resumed pumping. The loss of Texoma water did not have a major impact last summer because of the unusually wet winter and spring, and the fact NTMWD obtained raw water from other sources. But below average rainfall so far this year prompted NTMWD officials to initiate Stage 1 measures effective today.

NTMWD officials hope to be able to resume pumping raw water from Lake Texoma in latter 2011. More information and tips on water conservation can be found at www.wateriq.org and www.ntmwd.com.

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